

I have no issue with the way the percentage of captioning will increase through 2006. But what I take issue with is the fact that captioning quality has sunk to record lows. The problems are across the board, both in offline and realtime.

I feel that if captions are not 98% verbatim and totally accurate, they should not be accepted as fulfilling their obligation.

There have been too many instances where the captions have been totally unreadable or anywhere from 5 to 10 seconds behind the story.

Captionists should be required to be certified after passing a Federally regulated test under the auspices of a different department or agency than the DOED. Until such standards can be devised and agreed upon by captioning agencies who provide captions in the U.S., the Court Reporter Association standards should be adopted as the rule until a more satisfactory resolution can be reached.

The literacy rate is high enough without the government accepting illiterate captions on broadcast television.